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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-second session
Agenda items 9 and 12

THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Written statement submitted by the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status (category I), the Anti-Slavery Society for the Protection of Human Rights, Human Rights Advocates, Inc., the Indigenous World Association, the International Association for Religious Freedom, the International Federation of Human Rights, the International Indian Treaty Council, Pax Christi, Pax Romana, the Union of Arab Jurists and the World Council of Indigenous Peoples, non-governmental organizations in consultative status (category II) and Centre Europe - Tiers Monde, the International Federation of Rural Adult Catholic Movements, the International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples and the Minority Rights Group, non-governmental organizations on the Roster

The Secretary-General has received the following communication, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

[6 March 1986]

On the occasion of the forty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights, the above-mentioned non-governmental organizations, still concerned about the violation of human rights in East Timor, would like to reaffirm the right of the people of East Timor to self-determination as well as their concern about the present situation, notably:

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Hundreds of forced disappearances have been reported by non-governmental organizations: 76 are under consideration by the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (E/CN.4/1986/18),

Cases of assassination are under consideration by the Special Rapporteur on summary or arbitrary executions (E/CN.4/1986/21),

Reliable information has recently been received concerning the continued practice of torture,

There are many prisons, in addition to those visited by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in which the detainees are the victims of cruel and inhuman treatment and where many people are detained without trial,

The judicial procedures applied to political prisoners, particularly in Dili, are illegal: the defence lawyers are not chosen in conformity with international norms, the sentences are harsh and long preventive detention is not deducted from the sentence given, independent witnesses are not allowed to testify,

In the interior of the territory there is no freedom of movement and the right to leave or return to one's country is not recognized.

The above-mentioned non-governmental organizations therefore appeal to the Commission on Human Rights to examine carefully the situation in East Timor, to decide on measures which would put an end to human rights violations in this territory. Thus the Commission on Human Rights will contribute to a just solution of the problem acceptable to the international community and in conformity with the legitimate aspirations of the Timorese people.